

October 19, 2006

Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION FOR THE MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Dear Dr. Wallis:

During the 535th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS or the Committee), held on September 7, 2006, the ACRS completed its review of the license renewal application (LRA) for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP), and the associated final safety evaluation report (SER) prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. The staff appreciates the Committee's expeditious review of the Monticello LRA and associated SER.

In its final report, the Committee recommended the renewal of the operating license for MNGP, with the conclusions and recommendations discussed in your letter dated September 19, 2006. We appreciate the Committee's objective and in-depth review of the MNGP application and the staff's final SER. The staff agrees with the Committee's conclusions:

1. The programs established and committed to by the applicant to manage age-related degradation provide reasonable assurance that MNGP can be operated in accordance with its current licensing basis for the period of extended operation without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.
2. The NMC application for renewal of the operating license for MNGP should be approved.

The staff recognizes the ACRS's commitment to safety and appreciates the Committee's continued support of the license renewal process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

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SECY

*by e-mail

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OFFICE:	PM:RLRB:DLR	LA:RLRA:DLR	Tech Ed	BC:RLRB:DLR	D:DLR
NAME:	DMerzke	YEdmonds	CBladey*	JZimmerman	FGillespie
DATE:	10 / 03 / 06	10 / 03 / 06	9 / 29 / 06	10 / 04 / 06	10 / 12 / 06
OFFICE:	D:DRS:RIII	OGC NLO	D:NRR	EDO	
NAME:	CPederson*	SUttal	JDyer	LReyes	
DATE:	10 / 06 / 06	10 / 04 / 06	10 / 16 / 06	10 / 19 / 06	

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